This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert of the Ephrata Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Speedo” that premieres on August 24th, 2004 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings).

This award-winning documentary looks at the promising racing career and troubled family life of Ed “Speedo” Jager, one of the nation’s top demolition-derby drivers. Trapped in a failing marriage, Speedo channels life’s frustrations onto the track, hoping to parlay his talents into a “real” racing career. “Speedo” captures the collisions and confrontations during one tumultuous year as he struggles to achieve his dreams on the track and succeed as a husband, a father and a man. When he falls for Liz, a racetrack official from New Jersey, his life takes a surprising turn.

ADULT NONFICTION


Burstyn, Varda. The Rites of Men: Manhood, Politics and the Culture of Sport. Buffalo, NY: University of Toronto Press, 1999. Burstyn, a leftist and feminist, argues that men are drawn into the culture of violence that can only be changed if society is changed.


ADULT FICTION

Twenty-five short stories which capture small town life.

Ballard presents colorful characters whose obsession with car crashes sends him in a downward spiral.

A novel about racing, NASCAR, drivers and their support structure.

A variety of poets share verse about America’s obsession with the automobile.

An anthology of writings from the road. Over 30 stories from well known writers.

Set in 2010, this first person narrative by a driving instructor examines bad drivers and the social space of the road.

McLaughlin tells a wonderful coming-of-age story woven with the excitement of the track.

This is a story of Chance Reynolds, a driver who, after suffering an eye injury, becomes a chaplain to other drivers.

O’Neill discusses the ups and downs of fatherhood in this collection of 40 short stories.


Much like *Speedo*, this novel takes a look at the personal as well as professional ups and down of living the life of a race car driver.

The sixth book in the Rolling Thunder series, this installment looks in on the life of fictional driver “Rocket Rob” Wilder.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Benson offers readers an historical account of race car accidents, along with the ever-changing racing rules and safety equipment information.


This book looks into our attitudes towards violence in sports and possible solutions to reducing levels of violence.

Demolition derbies and monster trucks are brought to life through photographs and interesting facts about how drivers keep their cars running.

Savage tells of the history, rules and other fascinating facts about demolition derbies.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Brouwer tells the story of a seventeen year old who is assisting his uncle in filming a racing documentary – only to begin to suspect sabotage on the set.

This young adult book tells the story of a tri-athlete learning to control his anger.


In usual Hardy Boys style, the boys need to solve a mystery about a race car.

Rex, the Painting Gorilla, puts children behind the wheel with both facts and imagination.

The story of a boy’s first exposure to the demolition derby at a county fair.